
Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. ____**

Introduced by: Summers

A RESOLUTION recognizing the third week of April 2007 as "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week".

Whereas, The month of April has been designated "National Child Abuse Prevention Month" as an annual tradition that was initiated in 1979 by former President Jimmy Carter;

Whereas, Child abuse causes unspeakable pain and suffering to our most vulnerable citizens;

Whereas, Among the children who are victims of abuse and neglect, more than four die in the United States each day;

Whereas, Children one year or younger accounted for

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approximately 45 percent of all child abuse and neglect fatalities in 2004, and children three years or younger accounted for approximately 81 percent of all child abuse and neglect fatalities in 2004;

Whereas, Abusive head trauma, including the trauma known as "Shaken Baby Syndrome", is recognized as the leading cause of death of physically abused children;

Whereas, Shaken Baby Syndrome can result in loss of vision, brain damage, paralysis, seizures, or death;

Whereas, A 2003 report in the Journal of the American Medical Association estimated that, in the United States, an average of 300 children will die each year, and 600 to 1,200 more will be injured, of whom 2/3 will be infants under one year of age, as a result of Shaken Baby Syndrome, with many cases resulting in severe and permanent disabilities;

Whereas, Medical professionals believe that thousands of additional cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome are being misdiagnosed or are not detected;

Whereas, Shaken Baby Syndrome often results in permanent, irreparable brain damage or death to an infant and many cases result in extraordinary costs for the provision of medical care to the infant in just the first few years of life;

Whereas, The most effective solution for ending Shaken Baby Syndrome is to prevent the abuse, and it is clear that the minimal costs of education and prevention programs may prevent enormous medical and disability costs and immeasurable amounts of grief for many families;

Whereas, Prevention programs have demonstrated that educating new parents about the danger of shaking young children and about how they can help protect their child from injury can bring about a significant reduction in the number of cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome;

Whereas, Education programs have been shown to raise awareness and provide critically important information about



Shaken Baby Syndrome to parents, caregivers, daycare workers, child protection employees, law enforcement personnel, health care professionals, and legal representatives;

Whereas, Efforts to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome are supported by advocacy groups across the United States that were formed by parents and relatives of children who have been killed or injured by shaking; and

Whereas, The Indiana House of Representatives strongly supports efforts to protect children from abuse and neglect; Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives
2 recognizes the third week of April 2007, as "National Shaken Baby
3 Syndrome Awareness Week", commends those hospitals, child care
4 councils, schools, and other organizations that are working to increase
5 awareness of the danger of shaking young children, and encourages
6 Hoosiers to remember the victims of Shaken Baby Syndrome and
7 participate in educational programs to help prevent Shaken Baby
8 Syndrome.

